

Abstract

A device for filtering at least a predetermined selected optical signal having a predetermined wavelength range from a series of optical signals, the device comprising: a polarisation alignment means for substantially aligning substantially orthogonal polarisation states of an optical input signal so as to produce a polarisation aligned optical signal; a polarisation manipulation means for imparting a controlled polarisation manipulation to the polarisation aligned optical signal so as to output a polarisation manipulated optical signal having one of at least two distinguishable polarisation states including a first polarisation state and a second polarisation state; and an optical separation means for spatially separating the selected optical signal from the series of optical signals when the polarisation state of the polarisation manipulated optical signal is in a first polarisation state, thereby forming a first and second output optical signal, and maintaining the spatial alignment of the selected optical signal with the series of optical signals when the polarisation manipulated optical signal is in a second polarisation state so as to form a third optical output.